

**West Middlesex Borough
Council Meeting
January 16, 2024**

Call to Order: The West Middlesex Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Borough President Mr. Tim Webster.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President: Mr. Tim Webster conducted the meeting. Vice President: Mr. Robert Lark, Mr. Bill Novak, Mr. Robert Rankin, Mayor Stacey Curry

Others Present: Attorney Robert Tesone, Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, WMVFD President Rich Garrett, Ray Lucich, Mr. Kornbau, Mr. Ronald Preston, Mr. Dale Perry, Ms. Barb Lapinski

Public Comments: Mr. Dale Perry spoke as a resident of Shenango Twp. He is present to request a letter from the Borough of West Middlesex to Mr. Guttman to show support for a charging station at the Old Texaco Station on Rt 18. He feels this would bring more people into our Borough. He stated that because the property is in both the Borough, and Shenango TWP, Shenango Twp has already sent a letter showing support of this project. Mr. Webster added, we do not have this topic on our Agenda today. Mr. Webster also added that we would need more information. At the last work session meeting Mr. Perry mentioned not only the charging station, but also 15 acres of solar panels to be used to charge them. This is more information that was previously discussed last year when Mr. Guttman approached the Council in the past. The Borough would need more information on the Solar Panels. Mr. Perry added, that Mr. Guttman does not want to upset anyone on the Borough Council. He has the letter from last year and the previous discussions with the Borough. He suggested to Mr. Dale Perry that he drops it. Mr. Perry then asked the Council, since he is here, can he share pictures of some Solar Panel Projects that his wife's business, "God's Green Earth" presently have installed. Mr. Perry then passed out pictures of several Solar Panel Projects. Mr. Webster suggest that Mr. Guttman reaches out to the Council personally if he has any information that he would like Council to be aware of. Mr. Perry then added the last thing Mr. Guttman wants to do is not be welcomed here. Mr. Perry once again added, he feels this project would be good for our community. Mr. Webster once again suggested it would be best for Mr. Guttman to contact the Borough directly. Because this plan is a lot different than the original plan he presented to Council in the past. And he thanked Mr. Perry for the information.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Lark, and seconded by Mr. Novak to accept the Minutes from December 13, 2023 Work Session, December 19, 2023 Council Meeting, January 2nd, 2024 Reorganization Meeting, and January 2nd 2024 Special Council Meeting. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion carries.

Police Department Report: No Police to report. The Secretary was out of the office. Nothing pressing to report. Will have a year-end report at the next meeting.

Fire Department Report: The Fire Department Report was Read by WMVFD President Mr. Rich Garrett. Upcoming VFD Events: Dinner Dance April 13, 2024. Night at the Races Fundraiser: June 1, 2024.

Treasurer's Financial Report: Treasurer Paula Luca read the financial report. Also included was the year-end report of the Real Estate Tax Report, Per Capita Tax Report, and Berkheimer Tax Report. It was discussed that from here on out, all payments for the Tax Year 2023 will be paid at the Courthouse and we will receive payment from them. A motion was made by Mr. Lark, and Seconded by Mr. Novak to accept the Treasurer's Financial Report, and OK to pay all outstanding bills. All In Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carries.

Swimming Pool Committee: Mr. Lark, Mayor Stacey and Mr. While will be on the swimming pool committee again for the year 2024.

Building and Maintenance Committee: Mr. Rankin was appointed to the Building and Maintenance.

Zoning Hearing Board: Mr. Rankin, Mr. Bollinger, and Ms. Lapinski. Mr. Rankin will need to resign because he is now on the Council. That will leave us to just 2 members. Mr. Webster added, we need to have the vacancy filled. An alternative should also be appointed. Cindy Gilkey is currently an alternate. Mayor Stacey will reach out to see if she is still interested.

Planning Commission: Mr. Webster reported, currently have Mr. Harry Kornbau, Ms. Lapinski, Mr. Incerto, and Mr. Bollinger who are interested. We should have a 5-member committee. Mr. Webster asked if we have a council member that would be interested in sitting on the board. Mr. Lark said he would be interested. A motion was made by Mr. Novak, and Seconded by Mr. Rankin to accept the Planning Commission to consist of Mr. Harry Kornbau, Ms. Barbara Lapinski, Mr. Jeff Incerto, Mr. Dennis Bollinger and Council Member Mr. Robert Lark. All in favor, No opposed. Motion Carries. We will need to advertise, and organize a meeting to have officers appointed.

Council Vacancy: Mr. Webster updated the situation on the Council Vacancy. Two residents have sent in their letter of intent. In the order they were received are: Mr. Dennis Bollinger, and Mr. Ronald Preston. Mr. Webster read both letters of interest to the Council and all present. Mr. Bolinger is not present at tonight's Council Meeting. Mr. Webster suggests we recess this meeting at the end, until Tuesday January 23rd at 6:00 pm and have both present at a meeting to be interviewed.

Parking Ordinance: Mayor Stacey updated all on the issues with parking on Erie Street and Main Street. Attorney Tesone said we need to have specifics on the issues. Attorney Tesone also said he will speak with Police Chief Newton concerning this issue. He also requested the exact locations of the issues. A map of the roads is needed.

American Rescue Fund: Mr. Lark passed out a handout, and updated Council on the American Rescue Fund. The current balance of the funds available are \$15,310.58. The commitments of the money are due by the year end 2024. He wants the Council to be aware we need to make a commitment of the money so we do not lose it.

Discussion and resolution of the Grievance for Employees: Mr. Webster said if we need to have a discussion, Council would need to do it in an Executive Session. Council agrees, No Discussion needed. Mr. Lark made a motion to dismiss and they would drop the grievance. Seconded my Mr. Novak, all in favor, no opposed. Motion Carries.

West Middlesex Estates/Lilly Bridge: The total amount paid for the repair of the pump at Lilly Bridge was \$27,310.00. Mr. Lark feels we need to take action so this does not happen again. We need a back-up pump. We cannot have this happen again. The engineers need to be contacted to see what the results are of the study that was done in the past. Mr. Webster agrees we need a permanent solution, however, short term, we should look into purchasing a new pump as a back-up until the complete project can be completed. Mr. Rankin asked if we have prices on a new pump? Mr. Cochran is getting quotes. This topic will be added to the next meeting agenda. Mr. Lark will contact GPI.

Approval of New Locks for the Borough Office: Mr. Webster feels that new locks should be purchased for the office. Both doors, the office door and the door going into the fire department. This will assure no outstanding keys. He also suggested we get a lock to the front door for each Council Member so they are able to stop in at their convenience to pick up their packets. Mr. Novak made a motion, seconded my Mr. Rankin to approve new locks, all in favor, no opposed, Motion Carries.

A complete review of all Streets in Need of Repair: Mr. Lark reported we have a couple problems. We have several roads that need to be prepared, the second problem is the money. He suggested all Council Members drive around and put together a list of all roads. After we put the list together, the Council will calculate the money situation. Possibly have to get a loan to have the roads repaired.

A complete review of All Work that will need to be reviewed by GPI: Mr. Lark has put together a list of all the Storm Water Issues. He will add this list with the other issues to be presented to GPI.

Discussion of a potential 160th Celebration: Mr. Lark presented the Council and public present, a brief history of West Middlesex. He feels at least a one-day celebration to celebrate the 160th. Celebration.

Update on Summer Feeding Program: At this time, we do not have an update. Waiting to hear back from Alexis from the Community Food Warehouse.

Update on PennDot Meeting: January 18, 2024: PennDot will hold a meeting at our Community Room to update all involved in the Bridge repair.

Aqua Water New Meter Updates: Aqua Meter Updates: Secretary Paula Luca updated Council that several Water Meters are being changed. When this is happening, residents' water bills are going up when this is happening, and it is reflecting on the Sewer Bills also. Paula is working on each case separately. If any type of adjustments is needed, then it will be presented to the Council.

Softball Sign Up: Mayor Stacey Curry updated the Council that the Girls Softball would like to use the Borough Community Room for sign-ups. Mr. Lark suggests there will be no fee to use the community room. The dates will be Feb 3rd. & Feb 6th. Mr. Lark made a motion that there will not be a charge, Seconded my Mr. Novak. All in favor, no opposed. Motion Carries.

Other Business: Mr. Rich Garrett asked if there was any update on a backup generator. Mr. Webster replied that we are waiting for a bid from Laverty Electric. He also asked if there is a copy of an ordinance that allows the VFD to bill for equipment used on a call out. He also brought attention to the doors coming into the firehall. The salt is piled up and needs to be swept up so it does not rot the doors.

A motion was made by Mr. Lark to recess this meeting until Tuesday January 23rd at 6:00 at this location, seconded my Mr. Rankin. All in favor, no opposed, Motion Carries.